

October 21, 2011

To All Dog Owners In The Crescent:

As the owner of a dog I am familiar with the upkeep necessary for dog owners to be good citizens. I also recognize the majority of dog owners in our neighborhood are responsible individuals who recognize their duties as a pet owner. We all may have some issues with our animals; they may get loose occasionally, they may bark, etc.. but the one problem that should not be an issue is picking up after your animal.

I am growing increasingly frustrated with residents who walk their dogs and do not pick up after them. The islands adjoining Victory Point Drive have become waste dumps. I am appalled that some residents see any vacant lot as their personal sewage disposal plant. Further, the smell cannot be ignored. I see people walking their dogs in the dark of night or early morning hours without a flashlight. How would you expect to pick up after your dog in darkness? We all know the answer. This behavior is neither acceptable nor neighborly and has become much worse in recent months, as evidenced by complaints of others in Victory Point.

Some residents blame it on their children and while that may be true, in the end the adults have responsibility for their children and their dogs. I feel it is time to take a more proactive approach. Given that some people appear to go to great lengths to ensure they are not visible while walking their animals (late nights, early mornings) without bags or flashlights, talking to them has apparently been an abysmal failure. The current fine is \$250.00 and I would like to see us provide the Homeowner's Association with the information necessary to enforce the rule for repeat offenders. I ask all residents to join me in reporting those who are allowing their animals to defecate without cleaning up.

I also ask that anyone who reports an animal owner to be certain of what they have witnessed. I have heard several people state that they know a certain resident is responsible but when pressed on whether they have actually seen the animal in the act, they cannot confirm it. Let's be fair to everyone before we point the finger. There should be no guilt by association, only visual confirmation. I personally don't have any problem 'offending' and reporting so-called neighbors who treat others like this. I accept that there may be a rare occasion where we may walk out the door and forget to bring a bag or run of bags out while walking however repeat offenders quickly make themselves known.

I ask that this letter be published as a way of warning the offenders that this is your final notice to correct the problem if you choose to do so. Your neighbors are waiting, watching and hoping this is the end of the problem.

Sincerely,

Gary McCarney
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